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General Assembly
Fiftieth Session

Official Records

99th plenary meeting
Friday, 22 December 1995, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Diogo Freitas do Amaral ..... (Portugal)

The meeting was called to order at 4.35 p.m.

Reports of the Third Committee

The President: The General Assembly will now consider the reports of the Third Committee on agenda items 107, 112 (a) to (e), 165 and 12.

I request the Rapporteur of the Third Committee to introduce the reports of the Third Committee in one intervention.

Mr. Mohamed (Sudan), Rapporteur of the Third Committee: I have the honour to present the reports of the Third Committee on agenda items 107, 112 (a) through (e), 165 and 12.

Under agenda item 107, "Advancement of women", the Third Committee recommends in paragraph 34 of document A/50/630 the adoption of seven draft resolutions and in paragraph 35 the adoption of one draft decision.

The report on agenda item 112 (a) through (e) has been issued in six parts, contained in documents A/50/635 and Add.1 to Add.5, respectively.

Under agenda item 112, "Human rights questions", the Third Committee lists in document A/50/635 the documents before the Committee at its fiftieth session.

Under sub-item (a), "Implementation of human rights instruments", the Third Committee recommends in paragraph 14 of document A/50/635/Add.1 the adoption of three draft resolutions.

Under sub-item (b), "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms", the Third Committee recommends in paragraph 57 of document A/50/635/Add.2 the adoption of 16 draft resolutions.

Under sub-item (c), "Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives", the Third Committee recommends in paragraph 76 of document A.50/635/Add.3 the adoption of 13 draft resolutions and in paragraph 77 the adoption of one draft decision.

Under sub-item (d), "Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action", the Third Committee recommends in paragraph 8 of document A/50/635/Add.4 the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under sub-item (e), "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights", document A/50/635/Add.5 contains an account of the Third Committee's consideration; it does not contain any recommendation to the General Assembly.

Under agenda item 165, "Implementation of the Outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace", the Third

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This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, *within one month of the date of the meeting*, to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, Room C-178. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

Committee recommends in paragraph 14 of document A/50/816 the adoption of two draft resolutions and in paragraph 15 the adoption of one draft decision.

Under agenda item 12, "Report of the Economic and Social Council", the Third Committee recommends in paragraph 10 of document A/50/625 the adoption of three draft decisions.

There are some corrections arising from typographical errors to which I would like to refer.

Document A/50/635/Add.3 should list the Russian Federation as abstaining in the vote on draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.43, not draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.44. The document will be corrected to reflect this. Other corrections, by the delegation of Canada and the delegation of Japan, have also been duly noted and will be made in the reports.

I should like, in conclusion, to thank the Chairman of the Third Committee for his wisdom, guidance and diplomatic skill, which enabled the Committee's work to reach a successful conclusion. I should also like to thank the two Vice-Chairmen with whom I have had the pleasure to work, Patrick John Rata of New Zealand and Julia Tavares de Alvarez of the Dominican Republic, and all the other colleagues in the Third Committee. This was my first year in the Third Committee, and it was a pleasure for me to work with all my colleagues there. I liked it very much, and I have decided to continue to work in the Third Committee while I am here in New York.

Allow me also to thank the Secretary of the Third Committee, Kate Starr Newell, an her very able staff, particularly Vivien Pliner-Josephs and Alexandre De Barros, who worked with dedication and without complain to make these reports available to the Assembly.

I should also like to thank you, Mr. President, for allowing us to introduce the reports at two meetings, despite the problems of documentation we are now facing. I should also like, through you, to thank the secretariat of the General Assembly for their support and for the work they have done for me.

It has been a pleasure for me personally to work as Rapporteur of the Third Committee, and it has been an honour for my delegation, the delegation of the Sudan, to work in that Committee. We commit ourselves to the further improvement of the work of the General Assembly.

In conclusion, allow me to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The President: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Third Committee that are before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The President: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote or position.

The positions of delegations regarding the recommendations of the Third Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee".

May I remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Third Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we shall take decisions in the same manner as in the Third Committee, unless notified otherwise in advance.

This means that where recorded or separate votes were taken, we will do the same.

I would also hope that we may proceed to adopt without a vote those recommendations that were adopted without a vote in the Third Committee.

Agenda item 107

Advancement of women

Report of the Third Committee (A/50/630)

The President: The Assembly has before it seven draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 34 of its report and one draft decision recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 35.

I shall put the seven draft resolutions and the draft decision to the Assembly one by one.

We turn first to draft resolution I, "Proposed merger of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.21/Rev.1.

The Third Committee adopted this draft resolution without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 50/162).

The President: Draft resolution II is entitled "International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.22.

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 50/163).

Draft resolution III is entitled "Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.23.

The Third Committee adopted this draft resolution without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 50/164).

The President: Draft resolution IV is entitled "Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.24.

I call on the representative of Spain on a point of order.

Mr. Fernández (Spain) (*interpretation from Spanish*): This morning we told the Secretariat that the text that appears in operative paragraph 2 (d) of draft resolution IV is not the text which was agreed on. We thought that that correction was going to be referred to by the Rapporteur, and we would appreciate a clarification of this matter.

The President: I call on the representative of Sudan as Rapporteur of the Third Committee.

Mr. Mohamed (Sudan), Rapporteur of the Third Committee: The representative of Spain is quite right. I am sorry that we missed this correction.

I shall now read out the correct text of operative paragraph 2 (d) of draft resolution IV:

> "Undertaking necessary measures to give rural women full and equal access to productive resources, including the right to inheritance and to ownership of land and other property, credit, capital, natural resources, appropriate technologies, markets and information, and meeting their basic requirements in water and sanitation;".

The President: I repeat that draft resolution IV, "Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas", corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.24

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution IV without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 50/165).

The President: Draft resolution V is entitled "The role of the United Nations Development Fund for Women in eliminating violence against women". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.25/Rev.1.

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution V without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution V was adopted (resolution 50/166).

The President: Draft resolution VI is entitled "Traffic in women and girls". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.26/Rev.1.

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution VI without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution VI was adopted (resolution 50/167).

The President: Draft resolution VII is entitled "Violence against women migrant workers". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.27.

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution VII without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution VII was adopted (resolution 50/168).

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision, entitled "Documents considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of the advancement of women", contained in paragraph 35 of document A/50/630.

The draft decision was adopted by the Third Committee.

May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 107?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 112 *(continued)*

Human rights questions

Report of the Third Committee (Part I) (A/50/635)

The President: May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to take note of Part I of the report of the Third Committee?

It was so decided.

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments

Report of the Third Committee (Part II) (A/50/635/Add.1)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the three draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 14 of Part II of its report.

We turn first to draft resolution I, "International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.39.

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 50/169).

The President: Draft resolution II is entitled "Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.47/Rev.1.

I call on the representative of China on a point of order.

Ms. Feng Cui (China) (*interpretation from Chinese*): During the discussion of draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.47/Rev.1 in the Third Committee, we pointed out that the Chinese translation of operative paragraph 20 was not correct. We provided corrections in writing to the Secretariat.

We have just discovered that the Chinese translation of this paragraph — as it now appears in draft resolution II in document A/50/635/Add.1 — is still not consistent with the English version. The English version does not make any reference to the Secretary-General, while the

Chinese version does. We request the Secretariat to make the necessary correction to the Chinese translation. We have no problem with the English version. If we are adopting the English version, our delegation would have no difficulty whatsoever.

The President: The Secretariat has taken note of the correction requested by the Chinese delegation.

We shall now proceed to take a decision on draft resolution II, "Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights". I repeat that it corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.47/Rev.1.

Draft resolution II was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 50/170).

The President: Draft resolution III is entitled "International Covenants on Human Rights". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.53.

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution III without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 50/171).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 112?

It was so decided.

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Report of the Third Committee (Part III) (A/50/635/Add.2)

The President: The Assembly has before it 16 draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 57 of Part III of its report.

I shall put the 16 draft resolutions to the Assembly one by one. After all the decisions have been taken, representatives will have the opportunity to explain their vote or position.

We turn first to draft resolution I, "Respect for the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral processes". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.32.

We shall now begin the voting process.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zaire, Zimbabwe

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New

Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Benin, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Zambia

Draft resolution I was adopted by 91 votes to 57, with 21 abstentions (resolution 50/172).

The President: We now turn to draft resolution II, "United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education: culture of peace". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.33.

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 50/173).

The President: Draft resolution III is entitled "Strengthening of United Nations action in the human rights field through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.34.

The Third Committee adopted this draft resolution without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 50/174).

The President: Draft resolution IV is entitled "Respect for the right to universal freedom of travel and the vital importance of family reunification". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.36.

We shall now begin the voting process

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Canada, Israel, Japan, United States of America

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Cameroon, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago,

Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uzbekistan

Draft resolution IV was adopted by 86 votes to 4, with 80 abstentions (resolution 50/175).

The President: Draft resolution V is entitled "National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.37.

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution V without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution V was adopted (resolution 50/176).

The President: Draft resolution VI is entitled "United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education" It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.38

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution VI without a vote

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution VI was adopted (resolution 50/177).

The President: Draft resolution VII is entitled "Situation of human rights in Cambodia". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.40.

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution VII without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution VII was adopted (resolution 50/178).

The President: Draft resolution VIII is entitled "Strengthening of the rule of law". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.42.

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution VIII without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution VIII was adopted (resolution 50/179).

The President: Draft resolution IX is entitled "Effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.48.

Draft resolution IX was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly too wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

Draft resolution IX was adopted (resolution 50/180).

The President: Draft resolution X is entitled "Human rights in the administration of justice". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.49.

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution X without a vote.

May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution X was adopted (resolution 50/181).

The President: Draft resolution XI is entitled "Human rights and mass exoduses". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.51/Rev.1.

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XI without a vote.

May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution XI was adopted (resolution 50/182).

The President: Draft resolution XII is entitled "Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.55.

The Third Committee adopted this draft resolution without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution XII was adopted (resolution 50/183).

The President: Draft resolution XIII is entitled "Right to development". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.57.

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XIII without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution XIII was adopted (resolution 50/184).

The President: Draft resolution XIV is entitled "Strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.59.

We shall now begin the voting process.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia

Against:

None

Abstaining:

Brunei Darussalam, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Myanmar, Nigeria, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Zaire, Zimbabwe

Draft resolution XIV was adopted by 156 votes to none, with 15 abstentions (resolution 50/185).

The President: Draft resolution XV is entitled "Human rights and terrorism". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.61/Rev.1.

Draft resolution XV was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly too wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

Draft resolution XV was adopted (resolution 50/186).

The President: Draft resolution XVI is entitled "Strengthening of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.62/Rev.1.

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XVI without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution XVI was adopted (resolution 50/187).

The President: I call now on the representative of Mexico, who has asked to speak in explanation of vote.

Mrs. Espinosa (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*): The Government of Mexico supports respect for the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral processes, and therefore voted in favour of draft resolution I, on that subject, contained in the report of the Third Committee (A/50/635/Add.2). We wish, however, to state that paragraph 4 should be understood within the context of other resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on this matter. We therefore understand the provisions of that paragraph not to conflict with or constrain activities for technical assistance provided by the Electoral Assistance Division upon the explicit request of the countries concerned.

The President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 112.

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Report of the Third Committee (Part IV) (A/50/635/Add.3)

The President: The Assembly has before it 13 draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 76 of Part IV of its report and a draft decision recommended in paragraph 77.

I shall call first on those delegations wishing to speak in explanation of vote or position before action is taken on these recommendations.

Mr. Alaideroos (Yemen) (*interpretation from Arabic*): I wish to put on record the position of my delegation on the draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee under agenda item 112 (c), which relate to the human rights situation in various States. Since its founding, the Republic of Yemen has consistently pursued a policy of respect for and of upholding human rights. It has opted for democracy and political pluralism; it has laid down laws and legislative rules that enable its citizens to exercise their intellectual, social, economic and political rights and freedoms in accordance with prevailing laws and the Constitution.

Mr. Lamamra (Algeria), Vice-President, took the Chair.

It conducted the first free parliamentary elections in 1993, and it is now preparing for local government elections under the law on local government. In addition, it paved the way for freedom of the press and for the political pluralism that has given rise to the emergence of more than 20 political organizations and parties.

At the international level, Yemen acceded to and ratified most human-rights conventions and other instruments, thus demonstrating its absolute commitment to respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and social justice for the individual. On this basis, it consistently expresses grave concern over and denunciation and condemnation of violations and breaches of human rights, regardless of where they occur. In this regard, Yemen makes no distinction between one case and another.

When we examine the draft resolutions that are before the Assembly we notice that some of them embody a process of politicization of human rights, and that such politicization serves the interests of certain States at the expense of others, and thus flouts the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 10 December 1948 and its annexes, the two international Covenants, the Vienna Declaration and other international human-rights instruments. This is the result of selectivity — failure to abide by norms and standards. The methods used are devoid of impartiality and objectivity. In some cases, there is interference in the internal affairs of States, and national sovereignty is infringed. This weakens credibility and endangers the concepts of human rights.

Consequently, my delegation emphasizes the need to respect national sovereignty, to avoid interfering in the internal affairs of States and to respect the beliefs, traditions and religious creeds of peoples. The extent of respect for human rights should always be measured with the same yardstick. There should be no selectivity or double standards or politicization in the case of any State. This assertion stems from our belief that commitment by States to such an approach would enhance and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and would lead to the establishment of equitable international relations, based on mutual respect and belief in the common good, in a world where justice, democracy, progress and peace prevail.

Consequently, the Republic of Yemen, which believes in and cherishes the basic principles of human rights and tries to promote and protect them and, thus, to remain impartial when faced with selective, two-faced, politicized positions, will contribute to the application of standard norms and concepts in all cases, without selectivity or politicization, by not participating in the vote on draft resolutions or proposals concerning human rights in States, with the exception of those adopted by consensus.

Mr. Borda (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): My delegation would like to state, for the record, that with regard to draft resolution XI, entitled "Situation of human rights in Cuba", on which the Assembly will take action, the Government of Colombia is pleased at the positive progress that has been made in Cuba in the area of human rights. I refer in particular to the cooperation extended by the Government of Cuba -- something that is recognized by the Special Rapporteur in his report. The ratification of the United Nations Convention against torture, the visit to the country by some non-governmental human-rights organizations and the visit by the High Commissioner for Human Rights in November 1994 are all evidence of this cooperation.

Colombia cannot but welcome the agreements on migration reached by Cuba and the United States of America. These meet the need that has been felt to provide a sensible framework for migration flows. In addition, Colombia welcomes the economic reforms recently undertaken by the Cuban Government, as these will promote the well-being of Cuban society and of the Cuban people.

All of this is proof that it is possible, through dialogue and international cooperation, to make progress in the area of human rights.

Given these facts, and convinced that the promotion, protection and full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms must be governed by the principles of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity and that they should never be used for political purposes, Colombia will abstain in the vote on draft resolution XI.

Mr. Fernández Palacias (Cuba) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I should like to explain the vote that Cuba will cast on draft resolution XI, entitled "Situation of human rights in Cuba".

The General Assembly is about to enter a new stage in an exercise that has been one of the worst injustices in the recent history of this Organization, thought up and imposed by the super-Power which does not conceal its efforts to crush the ideals of freedom and social justice that have inspired our country.

The Government of the United States is utterly devoid of the necessary political and moral authority to proclaim itself the arbiter of human rights in Cuba. In fact, despite mammoth efforts and diplomatic pressures, it has not been able to universalize its anti-Cuba concoction.

How can those who have financed, organized and promoted all kinds of aggression against our people talk about human rights in Cuba? How can those who continue even to deny millions of children, women and old people access to food and medicines talk about human rights in my country?

Cuba will continue to move forward along its historic road of independence and social justice; it will continue the sovereign process of changes now under way, on the basis of the consensus of the people; and it will faithfully cooperate with the United Nations, guided by the principles of objectivity, impartiality and non-selectivity in respect of all human rights, everywhere in the world.

The international community should put a stop to this exercise, which contributes nothing to the protection and enjoyment of human rights in Cuba. Why should such waste of so much material and human effort continue to be allowed? Why should procedures that are so necessary to the promotion and protection of human rights be allowed to be so discredited?

Cuba will never accept this crude draft, however much it may be dolled up. Cuba will never accept a special rapporteur, however much he may be disguised as a neutral and independent person.

For all these reasons, Cuba will vote against draft resolution XI.

Mr. Gambari (Nigeria): I wish to speak in explanation of vote on draft resolution XII, "Situation of human rights in Nigeria".

My delegation would like to state how unhappy it is to observe that the General Assembly has been asked to take action on a draft resolution which seeks to address a domestic issue in a Member State. The issue in

question is the execution of nine Nigerians who were found guilty of murder after due process and in line with the laws of the land and the Constitution of my country.

The General Assembly has just celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, and during that celebration it affirmed the commitment of Member States to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. It is now being asked, through immense diplomatic pressure on several Member States of our Organization, to act contrary to the spirit and the letter of Article 2, paragraph 7, of that Charter.

The sovereign right of a Member State to enact its own laws within acceptable international standards is being challenged, and the retention by Member States of capital punishment for serious offences is also being questioned as uncivilized — as if there were a violation of human rights under the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. This is an unacceptable irony of events.

The principal sponsors of this draft resolution have not only launched a campaign of disinformation but have also demonstrated an unusual arrogance of power, seeking to prescribe who governs Nigeria, when and how. With all due respect, we submit that the change from one form of government to another is the business of the people of Nigeria. In this connection, my delegation would like to reaffirm that the democratic principle is not alien to Nigeria, and much has been done already by Nigerians themselves about the promotion of that system of governance on a sustainable basis.

It would be unfortunate if the General Assembly — which under Article 13 of the Charter of the United Nations should make recommendations for promoting international cooperation and for assisting in the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction — were to agree to take selective actions to deny Nigeria the right to development and to deprive Nigerians of their right to free movement in and out of some Member States of this Organization.

My delegation would like to state that the highly emotive reaction to the rejection of the plea of clemency for the convicted Nigerians cannot justify the manipulation of the procedures of the General Assembly by some relatively more powerful Members of our Organization. By acting on the present draft resolution, the Assembly will be acting contrary to Article 62 of the Charter, which gives the Economic and Social Council the responsibility to

> "make recommendations for the purpose of promoting respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all"

What Nigeria needs is international understanding, international accommodation and international cooperation so as to facilitate the faithful implementation of its political programme within its established time frame for a return to civil rule and the promotion of human rights for all in Nigeria. In this connection, we very much welcome any genuine assistance from friendly Member States towards the achievement of this goal.

Based on the foregoing observations, my delegation rejects the draft resolution, and in particular its fourth and fifth preambular paragraphs and operative paragraphs 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6.

Mr. Dlamini (Swaziland): Our statement in explanation of vote relates to the human rights in Kosovo in the Balkans.

We should like simply to state that we are going to change our position after due consultation with our Government.

Mr. Afonso (Mozambique): We have been following with keen interest the consideration of the issue before us concerning the situation of human rights in Nigeria.

Since our independence, we in Mozambique have consistently fought for and abided by strict observance of and respect for internationally accepted principles and norms governing human rights — not only in political spheres but also in social, economic and cultural spheres. Under the 1990 Constitution, the death penalty in Mozambique was abolished. At the same time, we are taking measures aimed at further strengthening peace, unity and national reconciliation, while preserving our independence. Our stand in the international arena is in conformity with our internal political and moral values. We therefore join all those who work for the promotion and respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

We deplore the events which have occurred in Nigeria, especially the sentencing to death of the nine defendants on 10 November 1995. In this context, our aim is to promote dialogue, with a view to encouraging our brothers and sisters in Nigeria to find political solutions to their problems. Any action we might undertake should take into account the need to prevent

the worsening of the situation in that country. We should encourage the Nigerian forces to continue working for democracy and human rights.

It is within this framework that we welcome the communiqué of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group on the Harare Declaration, issued in London on 20 December 1995. Conscious of the fact that a culture of democracy and of respect for human rights is a process that cannot be imposed from the outside, we believe that time and patience will be needed to fully settle an issue of the magnitude and complexity of that of Nigeria. This is our understanding of the time-frame agreed upon by the Commonwealth Summit in Auckland.

Accordingly, my Government is of the view that we should contribute, to the best of our abilities, to preventing the exacerbation of misunderstandings between Nigeria and the international community at large. Efforts should be deployed in order to ensure that this state of affairs does not reach uncontrollable proportions. We are not convinced that measures in response to human rights violations should be pursued to the last consequence before other possible actions are considered in detail. Instead, we should stand together and devise a common strategy which can assist that sister country in solving its problems and enabling it to return to the family of respected sons and daughters of Africa, whose contribution has been vital in the common struggle for the liberation of our continent.

It is also our understanding that the solution lies on the path of principles and traditions which our continent — the African continent — has followed for so many years. This has preserved our sovereignty and reaffirmed our commitment to democracy, respect for human rights and non-interference in internal affairs.

For the foregoing reasons, my delegation will abstain on this draft resolution concerning the situation of human rights in Nigeria.

Ms. Wahbi (Sudan) (*interpretation from Arabic*): The delegation of the Sudan wishes to clarify its position on all draft resolutions on human rights in certain States which have been selectively targeted for political reasons that have nothing at all to do with human rights as such.

Sudan refers to draft resolution X on human rights in the Sudan. We reaffirm our position of rejection of this unjust draft resolution, which ignores all positive and political developments in Sudan. We have asked for a separate vote on operative paragraphs 2, 4 and 12, regardless of our position on the draft resolution as a whole, because those paragraphs sow the seeds of discord in Sudan with the aim of fragmenting the country and represent blatant interference in the internal affairs of Sudan, in complete contravention of the United Nations Charter, which applies to every Member here today. Moreover, these paragraphs completely ignore the Sudan's continued official and other clarifications concerning the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Sudan.

Consequently, we shall vote against that draft resolution and we call upon all countries that uphold the principle of the sovereignty of nations to follow suit.

Mr. Hasan (Iraq) (*interpretation from Arabic*): Our delegation has been deprived of its right to vote in the General Assembly because my country has not paid its contributions in view of the comprehensive sanctions regime imposed against it. This has prevented Iraq from exporting its products and has frozen its assets abroad. Some Powers have rejected Iraq's ongoing attempts to reach a solution exempting it from the application of Article 19 of the Charter.

Had we had the right to vote, we would vote against the draft resolutions on the human rights situations in Iraq, Cuba, Nigeria and Sudan. These draft resolutions are of a political character and in no way serve human rights. On the contrary, they do harm to human rights as human rights are used in this context as a ploy to cover up illegal political activities, including interference in the internal affairs of States and imposing outside choices upon them.

As to the draft resolution on Iraq, I hope to remind the champions of human rights who shed tears over the situation of human rights in Iraq that it is they who are depriving Iraqi civilians of their basic human rights by imposing a comprehensive sanctions regime that has led to deaths of tens of thousands of women and children. These sanctions have denied Iraqis their basic human rights to food, medication, education and other necessities.

Mr. Nsanze Terence (Burundi): My delegation would like briefly to explain the reasons that have led it to oppose the draft resolution on the situation of human rights in Nigeria. Given that we have already set forth those reasons in the Third Committee, I will be very brief.

We would like to emphasize one specific aspect of the issue: our vote is not directed against any State whatsoever but is in strict accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, which in our view has a kind of supremacy over all the other international conventions on human rights.

As far as basic principles are concerned, the position of the delegation of Burundi is in full conformity with the need to safeguard and respect human rights. However, since we believe that the situation in Nigeria could have been dealt with differently as far as procedure is concerned, we feel that our Government should adhere to the principles for which it stands. It should be understood — and we would appeal to all our friends who are in favour of this draft resolution and to its sponsors to understand — that we are not voting against them, we are voting in favour of principles. Just as they are not voting against Burundi, since it is not Burundi but principles that are directly concerned, we earnestly urge them to understand that we should have the right to vote in accordance with our conscience, in accordance with our principles and in accordance with the procedure that we believe to be the right one.

In conclusion, I repeat that we are hostile to nobody but are adhering to a principle which we regard as sacrosanct: the sovereignty of a Member State. Therefore, respecting the right of the sponsors and of those who will vote in favour of the draft resolution, I repeat those sacred principles already enunciated by a historical political figure, Abraham Lincoln:

> "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right" (*Second inaugural address*).

The Acting President: May I remind all delegations that those that have explained their vote in the Committee should, as much as possible, refrain from repeating the explanation in the plenary Assembly.

We have heard the last speaker in explanation of vote before the vote.

We turn first to draft resolution I, "Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran".

We shall now begin the voting process.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Zambia

Against:

Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Gambia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkmenistan, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam

Abstaining:

Albania, Angola, Bahrain, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Zaire, Zimbabwe

Draft resolution I was adopted by 78 votes to 27, with 58 abstentions (resolution 50/188).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Chile informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour; the delegation of Tunisia had intended to abstain.]

The Acting President: Draft resolution II is entitled "Situation of human rights in Afghanistan".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution II.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 50/189).

The Acting President: We turn now to draft resolution III, entitled "Situation of human rights in Kosovo".

We shall now begin the voting process.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu

Against:

India, Russian Federation

Abstaining:

Angola, Bahamas, Belarus, Bhutan, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Jamaica, Kenya, Malawi, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Singapore, Slovakia, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Zaire, Zimbabwe

Draft resolution III was adopted by 115 votes to 2, with 43 abstentions (resolution 50/190).

The Acting President: Draft resolution IV is entitled "Situation of human rights in Iraq".

We shall now begin the voting process.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent

and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Zambia

Against

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Nigeria, Sudan

Abstaining

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Zaire, Zimbabwe

Draft resolution IV was adopted by 111 votes to 3, with 53 abstentions (resolution 50/191).

The Acting President: Draft resolution V is entitled "Rape and abuse of women in the areas of armed conflict in the former Yugoslavia".

A separate vote has been requested on the sixth preambular paragraph. Is there any objection to that request?

There is no objection.

I shall therefore put to the vote first the sixth preambular paragraph.

We shall now begin the voting process.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Zaire

Against:

Russian Federation

Abstaining:

Angola, China, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Tajikistan, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe

The sixth preambular paragraph was adopted by 146 votes to 1, with 10 abstentions.

[Subsequently, the delegation of Tunisia informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: We turn now to draft resolution V as a whole, which was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote.

May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution V as a whole was adopted (resolution 50/192).

The Acting President: Draft resolution VI is entitled "Situation of human rights in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)".

We shall now begin the voting process.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela

Against:

Russian Federation

Abstaining:

Angola, Belarus, Burkina Faso, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Greece, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Sierra Leone, Tajikistan, Togo, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Zimbabwe

Draft resolution VI was adopted by 144 votes to 1, with 20 abstentions (resolution 50/193).

The Acting President: Draft resolution VII is entitled "Situation of human rights in Myanmar".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution VII.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution VII was adopted (resolution 50/194).

The Acting President: Draft resolution VIII is entitled "Protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution VIII.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution VIII was adopted (resolution 50/195).

The Acting President: Draft resolution IX is entitled "Human rights in Haiti".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution IX.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution IX was adopted (resolution 50/196).

We turn now to draft resolution X, "Situation of human rights in the Sudan".

Separate votes have been requested on operative paragraphs 2, 4 and 12. Is there any objection to that request?

There is no objection.

I shall therefore first put to the vote operative paragraph 2.

We shall now begin the voting process.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Afghanistan, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Viet Nam

Abstaining:

Algeria, Angola, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Colombia, Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malaysia, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu

Operative paragraph 2 was adopted by 87 votes to 15, with 50 abstentions.

The Acting President: I shall now put to the vote operative paragraph 4.

We shall now begin the voting process.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Ecuador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Afghanistan, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Viet Nam

Abstaining:

Algeria, Angola, Bangladesh, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Colombia, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada,

Guatemala, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malaysia, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu

Operative paragraph 4 was adopted by 85 votes to 17, with 49 abstentions.

The Acting President: I now put to the vote operative paragraph 12.

We shall now begin the voting process.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Afghanistan, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Viet Nam

Abstaining:

Algeria, Angola, Bangladesh, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Colombia, Dominica, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Vanuatu

Operative paragraph 12 was adopted by 85 votes to 14, with 50 abstentions.

The Acting President: I now put to the vote draft resolution X as a whole.

We shall now begin the voting process.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Afghanistan, China, Cuba, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Viet Nam

Abstaining:

Algeria, Angola, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Vanuatu

Draft resolution X as a whole was adopted by 94 votes to 15, with 54 abstentions (resolution 50/197).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Mozambique informed the Secretariat that it had intended to abstain.]

The Acting President: We now turn to draft resolution XI, "Situation of human rights in Cuba".

We shall now begin the voting process.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu

Against:

China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Gambia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Myanmar, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Abstaining:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominica, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Ukraine, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zaire

Draft resolution XI was adopted by 66 votes to 22, with 78 abstentions (resolution 50/198).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Rwanda advised the Secretariat that it had intended to vote against.]

The Acting President: Draft resolution XII is entitled "Situation of human rights in Nigeria".

We shall now begin the voting process.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia and

Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Burundi, Chad, China, Cyprus, Gambia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Marshall Islands, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Togo

Abstaining:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Madagascar, Malaysia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Thailand, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania

Draft resolution XII was adopted by 101 votes to 14, with 47 abstentions (resolution 50/199).

[Subsequently, the delegations of Cyprus and the Marshall Islands informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: Draft resolution XIII is entitled "Situation of human rights in Rwanda".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XIII.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution XIII was adopted (resolution 50/200).

The Acting President: We turn now to the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 77 of document A/50/635/Add.3.

The draft decision is entitled "Documents considered by the General Assembly in connection with human rights questions: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives".

May I consider that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The Acting President: I shall now call upon those representatives wishing to make statements in explanation of vote.

Mr. Matesić (Croatia): The delegation of Croatia wishes to make a statement in explanation of its vote on the draft resolution entitled "Situation of human rights in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)", which the Assembly has just adopted.

Croatia voted in favour of the draft resolution despite having strong reservations with regard to operative paragraph 6.

First, we wish to state that some of my delegation's concerns were taken into account during the drafting of the text and that this made it possible for us to support the draft resolution. However, we find the wording and placement of operative paragraph 6 unsatisfactory.

The text of the resolution, as it stands, can lead to the misinterpretation that the legitimate military action by Croatian security forces, and certain crimes committed by individuals and groups primarily after the military operation, are equivalent to the actions which are also condemned in the text and which are attributed primarily to the Serb side — such actions as "ethnic cleansing" massive and systematic violations of human rights and

international humanitarian law, mass rape and indiscriminate shelling of civilians.

We wish to reiterate that the Croatian military operation referred to in operative paragraph 6 of the resolution was conducted within the internationally recognized borders of the Republic of Croatia in order to restore the authority of the legitimate and democratically elected Government. Secondly, this operation liberated territory which was under the control of brutal and oppressive foreign proxy forces, which had for the past four years conducted a campaign of genocide against Croats and other non-Serb citizens of Croatia. Thirdly, the military operation lifted the siege of the Bosnian city of Bihac and spared tens of thousands of individuals from meeting the same fate as that of the unfortunate victims of Srebrenica.

It should be pointed out that the number of civilian casualties, as well as the amount of property destroyed during the course of this military operation, was extremely small for an operation of such a scale. This provides compelling evidence that the Croatian military and Government undertook significant measures to keep collateral damage to a minimum. We wish to stress that Croatia is proud of the professional conduct of its troops during the military operation and their efforts to prevent civilian casualties.

The Croatian Government is aware that there were criminal acts committed by individuals and groups in the aftermath of the Croatian military operation, resulting in the death of several dozens of individuals — primarily members of the Serb community in Croatia. The Croatian Government condemns these actions and has undertaken measures to remedy them. We wish to refer, however, to a statement by a United Nations spokesman, Mr. Alun Roberts, in regard to these incidents, as quoted in *The New York Times* of 12 December 1995, that

> "There, has not been an organized Government campaign to harass, loot and kill people".

In conclusion, Croatia reaffirms its commitment to respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms and to remaining transparent in its human rights policy. However, we expect any consideration of Croatia's human rights record to be objective, to reflect the causes of the conflict as well as the complexity of the situation in which Croatia finds itself, and to be guided by sincere concern for human rights and by no other motive. We also wish to stress that if there is need for consideration of Croatia's human rights record, then the proper forum within the United Nations is the Third Committee and not other forums, including the Security Council. Since the situation of human rights in Croatia does not pose a threat to international peace and security, inordinate scrutiny of Croatia's human rights record by the Security Council can only be understood as stemming from politically motivated reasons of certain Council members.

While my delegation voted in favour of the entire draft resolution, we wish to stress that had operative paragraph 6 been voted on separately we would not have been able to support it.

Ms. Feng Cui (China) *(interpretation from Chinese)*: We wish to explain our vote on draft resolution III, "Situation of human rights in Kosovo", which the Assembly has just adopted.

The Chinese delegation maintains that respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity is a fundamental principle enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. Kosovo is a part of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Since the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is a sovereign State, its sovereignty and territorial integrity should be respected.

In view of those considerations, the Chinese Government could not support the draft resolution on human rights in Kosovo, and my delegation therefore abstained in the voting on draft resolution III.

Ms. Murugesan (India): India wishes to explain its vote on draft resolution III, "Situation of human rights in Kosovo".

India remains committed to the promotion and protection of all human rights in all States. India is also committed to the preservation and protection of the territorial integrity, national sovereignty and independence of Member States of the United Nations. Further, India firmly adheres to the Charter principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of United Nations Member States.

While firmly in favour of promoting and protecting all human rights in all States, we are equally firmly opposed to the increasing tendency to adopt United Nations resolutions on a part of a territory of a Member State, which we believe is a challenge to the territorial integrity of a State and introduces an unwelcome dimension to the debate on human rights. Such

resolutions may also be in violation of Article 2, paragraph 7, of the United Nations Charter. They open the way to selectivity and further politicization of the human rights agenda at the United Nations and in international affairs. We are deeply concerned by the growing tendency of some States not only to encourage or support such selectivity, but also to condone the human rights violations of one of the parties to a conflict in resolutions such as the one under discussion. This is not a healthy approach.

It was for those reasons that we could not support the draft resolution entitled "Situation of human rights in Kosovo". In our view, the situation in Kosovo should have been addressed in the omnibus draft resolution, under the same agenda item, that dealt with the situation of human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and the former Republic of Yugoslavia.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of vote.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (c) of agenda item 112?

It was so decided.

(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Report of the Third Committee (Part V) (A/50/635/Add.4)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 8 of Part V of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 50/201).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (d) of agenda item 112?

It was so decided.

(e) Human rights questions: report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Report of the Third Committee (Part VI) (A/50/635/Add.5)

The Acting President: In paragraph 5 of its report, the Third Committee informs the General Assembly that no action was taken by the Committee under sub-item (e) of agenda item 112.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to take note of Part VI of the report of the Third Committee and to conclude its consideration of sub-item (e) of agenda item 112?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 165

Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace

Report of the Third Committee (A/50/816)

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/50/838)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 14 of its report and on the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 15.

We turn first to the two draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 14 of its report.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 50/202).

The Acting President: Draft resolution II is entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action".

The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution is contained in document A/50/838.

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 50/203).

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 15 of its report.

The draft decision, entitled "Documents considered by the General Assembly in connection with the item 'Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace'", was adopted by the Third Committee.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

The Acting President: May I take that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 165?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 12 (*continued*)

Report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Third Committee (A/50/625)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the three draft decisions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 10 of its report.

We turn first to draft decision I, "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights".

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt draft decision I?

Draft decision I was adopted.

The Acting President: We now turn to draft decision II, "Organization of work of the Third Committee and biennial programme of work of the Committee for 1996-1997".

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt draft decision II?

The Acting President: I call on the representative of the Russian Federation on a point of order.

Mr. Sepelev (Russian Federation) *(interpretation from Russian):* Before our delegation can agree to the adoption of this draft decision, we would like to hear some explanation from the Secretariat as to why the paragraph proposed by the Russian Federation at the meeting of the Third Committee has not been included in the draft document. The relevant decision was taken on 14 December this year. Specifically, I would recall the proposal we made then: resolution 48/155 stated that the Secretary-General should submit a report on the situation of human rights in Latvia and Estonia at a future session, and we insisted that that report be submitted. Our Rapporteur assured us yesterday from this rostrum that our proposal and, if I am not mistaken, the proposal made by India, which for technical reasons had not been included in yesterday's version of the document, would be included today. Unfortunately, however, despite all such previous statements, we have not seen this today, and we would like an explanation from the Secretariat.

The Acting President *(interpretation from French)*: I would like to answer the representative of the Russian Federation by saying that in the absence of a decision by the Third Committee on the question he raised, the General Assembly will take due note of his comments.

Mr. Sepelev (Russian Federation) *(interpretation from Russian)*: Am I to understand that our specific proposal on the implementation of one of the decisions in resolution 48/155 will be included in the programme of work of the Third Committee for the two-year period?

The Acting President: The answer is: Yes.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt draft decision II?

Draft decision II was adopted.

The Acting President: Draft decision III is entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council".

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt draft decision III?

Draft decision III was adopted.

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of the chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council allocated to the Third Committee?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of all the reports of the Third Committee.

Agenda item 12 *(continued)*

Report of the Economic and Social Council (A/50/3 and Add.1)

The Acting President: Members will recall that chapters I, II, V (section A), VI (section N), XIII and XIV of the report of the Council were assigned to the plenary Assembly.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to take note of those chapters of the report?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of chapters I, II, V (section A), VI (section N), XIII and XIV of the report of the Economic and Social Council?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 12.

Agenda item 52

Launching of global negotiations on international economic cooperation for development

The Acting President: Representatives will recall that on 22 September 1995 the Assembly decided to include this item in the agenda of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly.

May I take it that it is the Assembly's wish to defer consideration of this item and to include it in the provisional agenda of the fifty-first session?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 52?

It was so decided.

Programme of work

The Acting President: I should like to inform members that, in view of the fact that the Fifth Committee has not yet concluded its work, the General Assembly will consider the reports of the Fifth Committee that were scheduled for this afternoon tomorrow, Saturday, 23 December 1995, at 11 a.m.

The meeting rose at 6.35 p.m.

United Nations A/50/PV.100

General Assembly
Fiftieth Session

Official Records

100th plenary meeting
Saturday, 23 December 1995, 11 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Diogo Freitas do Amaral (Portugal)

The meeting was called to order at 12.10 p.m.

Reports of the Fifth Committee

The President: The General Assembly will today consider the reports of the Fifth Committee on the items on its agenda.

I invite the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee to introduce the reports of the Fifth Committee in one intervention.

Mr. Maddens (Belgium), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee (*interpretation from French*): It is my honour today to introduce the reports of the Fifth Committee on the items on its agenda.

Members will recall that at the fiftieth session of the General Assembly 34 items were allocated to the Fifth Committee.

From 21 September to 22 December the Fifth Committee held 45 formal meetings. All the negotiations on the items on its agenda took place in informal consultations, which, in conformity with the Committee's usual practice, were presided over by various representatives on the Fifth Committee. I am happy to inform the Assembly that all the draft resolutions and draft decisions adopted during this first part of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly were adopted by consensus.

I shall now present a brief report on the work of the Fifth Committee.

The report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 113, "Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors", is contained in document A/50/839, in paragraph 6 of which the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of one draft resolution, which the Committee adopted without a vote following informal consultations presided over by the Tunisian Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

The report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 114, "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations", is contained in document A/50/840. In that report, the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of two draft decisions. Draft decision I relates to certain items and relevant reports consideration of which is deferred to the resumed fiftieth session. Draft decision II concerns the biennial programme of work for the Fifth Committee for 1996-1997. In approving a draft proposal submitted orally by the Chairman, the Committee also decided to include in draft decision I a recommendation to the General Assembly that consideration of agenda item 114 be deferred to the resumed fiftieth session. These three draft decisions were adopted by the Committee without a vote.

The report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 115, "Programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995",

95-87135 (E)

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one month of the date of the meeting* to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, Room C-178. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

is contained in document A/50/841, in paragraph 4 of which the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution, which was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

The report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 116, "Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997", is contained in document A/50/842. Because of the lateness of the hour at which the Fifth Committee adopted its decisions last night, I must make some oral corrections to some of the figures in document A/C.5/50/L.29. In paragraph 9 of Part I of that document, page 13, the figure for "Income from staff assessment" should read $384,306,000. On page 14, the figure for "Total, income from staff assessment" should read $382,679,100, and the figure for "Total, income sections" should read $471,401,700.

In document A/C.5/50/L.29 (Part II), in draft resolution II B, the figure for "Income from staff assessment" should again read $384,306,000 and the figure for "Total, income sections" should read $471,401,700.

In paragraph 1 of draft resolution II C in the same document, the figure "26,760,900 dollars" should read "24,160,900 dollars", and the figure in paragraph 1 (b) should read "1,285,696,850 dollars". In paragraph 2, the figure "202,635,900 dollars" should read "197,885,900 dollars" and the figure "196,903,000 dollars" should read "192,153,000 dollars".

Document A/50/842 contains a number of recommendations that the Committee adopted without a vote. Given the importance of this item, I want to convey the admiration of all representatives for the coordinators of the informal consultations on the proposed programme budget. Their patience, ability and know-how will be our happiest memory of this session. I know that one of the two coordinators, Mr. Martin Sharp of Australia, has left New York to take up other duties in his country. I would like on behalf of my colleagues in the Committee and on my own account to ask the Australian delegation to communicate our thanks to him.

The report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 119, "Pattern of conferences", is contained in document A/50/837, in which the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution, which was negotiated under the leadership of our German colleague and which the Committee adopted without a vote.

I turn to agenda item 120, "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations". The report of the Fifth Committee is contained in document A/50/843. In paragraph 12 the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution, and in paragraphs 13 and 14 it recommends the adoption of two draft decisions; all three were adopted by the Committee without a vote following informal consultations conducted by the representative of Ireland.

The report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 121, "United Nations common system", is contained in document A/50/844, in paragraph 7 of which the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution, negotiations on which were chaired by our colleague from New Zealand; the Committee adopted this draft resolution without a vote.

The report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 123, "Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission", is contained in document A/50/845. In paragraph 6 of that report, the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of one draft resolution, which the Committee adopted without a vote.

On agenda item 125, "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara", the report of the Fifth Committee on that item is contained in document A/50/819. In paragraph 6 of that document the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft decision, which was presented orally by the Chairman of the Committee and which the Committee adopted without a vote.

The report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 126, "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador", is contained in document A/50/818. In paragraph 5 of that report, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft decision, which was presented to the Committee orally and which was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

The report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 131, "Financing of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus", is contained in document A/50/827. In paragraph 5 of that report, the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft decision presented by the Chairman of the Committee and adopted by the Committee without a vote.

The report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 132, "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia", is contained in document A/50/820, in paragraph 6 of which the Committee recommends to the Assembly the adoption of a draft decision presented orally and adopted without a vote.

The report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 137, "Financing of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan", is contained in document A/50/828. In paragraph 6 of that report the Committee recommends to the Assembly the adoption of a draft decision presented orally and adopted without a vote.

The reports of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 138, "Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations", are in documents A/50/821 and its addendum; A/50/850 and its addendum; and A/50/851. These reports contain draft decisions on a mock-up budget for peace-keeping operations; the relocation of Palau to group D of the scale of assessments for peace-keeping operations; the use of the support account for peace-keeping operations pending the in-depth consideration of this subject that should take place at the resumed session next spring; the necessary amendments to the Financial Regulations to take into account the changes put in place by resolution 49/233; and deferral of the draft decision submitted by Ukraine to the first resumption of the fiftieth session. These draft decisions were adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote.

The report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 166, "Admission of the World Tourism Organization to membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund", is contained in document A/50/822. In paragraph 5 of that report the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft decision by which the World Tourism Organization would be admitted to membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund. The Committee adopted this draft decision without a vote.

Finally, Mr. President, the Fifth Committee, at your request, was also involved in the Assembly's consideration in plenary meeting of agenda item 164, entitled "Normalization of the situation concerning South Africa".

I cannot conclude my statement without expressing the gratitude of all members of the Fifth Committee for the help we received from the Secretariat staff, in particular from the Department of Administration and Management. The assistance of the Under-Secretary-General and his staff and the Secretary of the Committee and his staff made it possible for us to finish our work in a climate of cooperation and consensus. We know that the results of our work constitute an enormous challenge to our colleagues in the Secretariat, but we are confident that their ability will ensure the successful implementation of our decisions.

The President: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Fifth Committee that are before it today.

It was so decided.

The President: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote or position.

The positions of delegations regarding the recommendations of the Fifth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401 the Assembly agreed that

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee."

May I also remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Fifth Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we shall proceed to take decisions in the same manner as was done in the Fifth Committee.

Agenda item 113

Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/50/839)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 50/204 A to D).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 113?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 114

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/50/840)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the two draft decisions recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 8 of its report.

We turn first to draft decision I, entitled "Action taken on certain items".

The Fifth Committee adopted this draft decision without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft decision I was adopted.

The President: We now turn to draft decision II, entitled "Biennial programme of work for the Fifth Committee for 1996-1997".

The Fifth Committee adopted this draft decision without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft decision II was adopted.

The President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 114.

Agenda item 115

Programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/50/841)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 4 of its report.

May I consider that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 50/205 A and B).

The President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 115.

Agenda item 119

Pattern of conferences

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/50/837)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 8 of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 50/206 A to F).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 119?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 120 *(continued)*

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/50/843)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 12 of its report and the two

draft decisions recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraphs 13 and 14 of its report.

We turn first to the draft resolution contained in paragraph 12 of the report. It was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 50/207).

The President: We now turn to the two draft decisions.

Draft decision I was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft decision I was adopted.

The President: Draft decision II was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft decision II was adopted.

The President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 120.

Agenda item 121

United Nations common system

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/50/844)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

The draft resolution, entitled "United Nations common system: report of the International Civil Service Commission", was adopted by the Fifth Committee. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 50/208).

The President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 121.

Agenda item 123

Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/50/845)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 50/209).

The President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 123.

Agenda item 128 (*continued*)

Financing of the United Nations Protection Force, the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia, the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force and the United Nations Peace Forces headquarters

Report of the Fifth Committee (Part II) (A/50/796/Add.1)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 5 of part II of its report.

The draft decision was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 128.

Agenda item 134

Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/50/846)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 50/210).

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 134.

Agenda item 135

Financing of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/50/848)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 50/211).

The President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 135.

Agenda item 136

Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/50/849)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 50/212).

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 136.

Agenda item 138 (*continued*)

Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations

Report of the Fifth Committee (Part II) (A/50/821/Add.1)

The President: I call on the representative of Ukraine on a point of order.

Mr. Goumenny (Ukraine) (*interpretation from Russian*): Our delegation would like to draw attention, with respect to the report contained in provisional document A/50/851, to the fact that while the decision taken at the resumed forty-ninth session of the General Assembly was entitled

(*spoke in English*)

> "Relocation of Belarus and Ukraine to the group of Member States set out in paragraph 3 (c) of General Assembly resolution 43/232".

(*spoke in Russian*)

the question of the relocation of Belarus has, as members know, been resolved in a most satisfactory manner. We would request, therefore, that the relevant changes be made to provisional document A/50/851 to the title, the last part of paragraph 1, paragraph 3 and the draft decision itself, which appears in paragraph 6.

I should also like to take this opportunity to draw attention to the fact that our delegation believes that this item was not given sufficient consideration by the Fifth Committee at the fiftieth session. Had this issue been taken up in a more comprehensive manner, this would have afforded a greater opportunity to discuss the problem, and we could have arrived at not only a procedural but a substantive solution.

We trust that at the resumed fiftieth session this problem will be resolved.

The President: We shall take note of the observations just made by the representative of Ukraine.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 4 of part II of its report.

The draft decision was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

(a) Financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/50/850 and Add.1)

The President: The Assembly will take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 5 of part I of its report (A/50/850).

The draft decision was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wish to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 5 of part II of its report (A/50/850/Add.1).

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft decision without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft decision was adopted.

(b) Relocation of Ukraine to the group of Member States set out in paragraph 3 (c) of General Assembly resolution 43/232

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/50/851)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

The draft decision was adopted by the Fifth Committee. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 138.

Agenda item 160

Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/50/852)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted (resolution 50/213).

The President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 160.

Agenda item 116

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/50/842)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the five draft resolutions recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Questions related to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997". The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 50/214).

The President: Draft resolution II (A to C), entitled "Programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997", was adopted by the Fifth Committee. May I take it that the Assembly also wishes to adopt draft resolution II?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 50/215 A to C).

The President: Draft resolution III, entitled "Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997", was adopted by the Fifth Committee. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 50/216).

The President: Draft resolution IV is entitled "Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 1996-1997" and was adopted by the Fifth Committee. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 50/217).

The President: Draft resolution V, entitled "Working Capital Fund for the biennium 1996-1997", was adopted by the Fifth Committee. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

Draft resolution V was adopted (resolution 50/218).

The President: I shall now call on those representatives wishing to speak in explanation of position.

Ms. Goicochea (Cuba) (*interpretation from Spanish*): We have just adopted the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, which is of special importance for the United Nations and for the international community in general, for without question it is a budget of change.

It is a budget of change because concepts are changed; they now seem to be corporate concepts. The Organization's commitment to the decisions of its Member States is changed, because now — let us not deceive ourselves — it will be much more difficult, if not impossible, for the United Nations to fulfil the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter. Moreover, the very essence of the budgetary process established in resolution 41/213 is changed. The outline seems to be an outline no more; instead, there is an attempt to impose a ceiling. The priorities set by the General Assembly are not being respected, and attempts are being made to impose different priorities despite the decisions of this legislative organ. In other forums there is an attempt to eliminate the Committee on Programme and Coordination, the strengthening of which was part of the consensus package adopted in resolution 41/213.

We all know that this process was established in an attempt to meet the concerns felt primarily by the major contributor about the budgetary process, including the procedures for decision-making. It was hoped that following the adoption of the resolution, that contributor — which is also the major debtor — would fulfil its financial commitments responsibly, in full and on time. In its pattern of payments over the last nine years, its imposition of conditions for payment has survived, been renewed and taken new forms which have brought about the adoption without a vote of this resolution, about which many of us harbour doubts but which satisfies, first and foremost, the major contributor.

We participated in negotiations that were tainted from the outset, the results of which will be felt only in the medium and the long term. My delegation wonders whether this is really the budget desired by those of us that believe in the United Nations, those of us that, like my delegation, are fully and unconditionally committed to its purposes and principles. Can we possibly believe that the spirit that guided the founders of the Organization 50 years ago is reflected in this budget? In our view, it is not.

The budget we have adopted responds first and foremost to the hegemonic and political interests of the major contributor, which was once again threatening to paralyse the activities of the Organization if its own domestic pressures were not addressed. My delegation believes that we must all reflect deeply on what we have just done. This could be the first in a series of measures leading, in essence, not to the reform but to the destruction of this international Organization *par excellence*. In our attempt to ensure the functioning of the United Nations, we may be compromising its nature, and by the time we realize what we have done the damage may be irreparable.

Cuba's consistent, unconditional and unswerving commitment to the United Nations and its political flexibility led us to join a consensus in which few believe but which many applaud because they believe it will help improve the Organization's financial situation. Let us hope these expectations will be met.

The Cuban delegation hoped that the budget adopted would enable the Secretariat to carry out fully the tasks entrusted to it. But we have severely reduced its resources, and let us now act in congruity with the decisions we have taken. Still, we await with great interest the study of areas where savings could be made so that the final decisions can be taken.

A number of matters remain pending, such as sections 3 and 21. With respect to the latter, allow me to say that my delegation hoped that the negotiations could have enabled us to decide upon genuine, effective structural and programmatic follow-up to the Declaration on the Right to Development and that we could have allocated the resources requested for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

My delegation hopes that when the Fifth Committee resumes its work we will be able to face more realistically the difficult and distressing situation into which we are leading the United Nations, whose fiftieth anniversary we have just celebrated but whose future we may be harming with decisions such as the one we have just adopted.

Mr. Hanson (Canada): My delegation welcomes the adoption without a vote of the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. My delegation attaches particular importance to consensus decision-making in budgetary matters and therefore wishes to express its appreciation to you, Sir; to our coordinators, Mr. Martin Sharp of Australia and Mr. Movses Abelian of Armenia; and to all other representatives who participated in the consultations that built and shaped this consensus.

This budget is a complex and highly technical document. My delegation is pleased to note the innovations in part IV of the text of the budget resolution, which establish a total level of expenditures of $2.608 billion and which mandate a projected level of savings to be achieved during the biennium.

It is also emphasized at a number of points in the text that efficiency gains and savings should be made without adversely affecting mandated programmes and activities. My delegation agrees completely. We have long advocated that the search for savings should be targeted on non-programme activities. In other words, we want to cut the overhead expenses, which, as defined in Canada, account for over 53 per cent of the Organization's expenses. As our peace-keepers sometimes say, we want to improve the ratio of teeth to tail.

In the course of our consultations, we have had occasion to discuss in detail the newly-formed efficiency board, established by the Secretary-General in due exercise of his authority. We wish to commend the Secretary-General for this initiative and to suggest that the search for savings mandated by this resolution could with confidence be entrusted to the efficiency board.

My delegation believes that increased efficiency should be a matter of major concern to all Member States. Some programmes are obviously higher priorities for some Member States than they are for others, but efficient delivery of those programmes should concern us all equally. Efficient peace-keeping means a peace more securely kept. Efficient development delivers greater benefits to those who need them most. Efficient delivery of human rights programmes means better protection of human rights. Efficient public information means a better-informed public. An efficient administration means lower costs and more rapid and effective delivery of services all around.

Another matter of concern to my delegation is internal borrowing from special accounts, a practice that now goes well beyond the intent of the authorities which this Assembly first established in 1958. My delegation supports the changes that the United Kingdom has proposed to achieve greater transparency and more effective control of this practice by Member States.

The experience of the past days and weeks of consultations leads my delegation to believe that further improvements are necessary in the budgetary process, improvements that would enable the Fifth Committee and the General Assembly to focus on the major questions of objectives, deliverables and priorities, and engage less in the resolution of detailed questions of resource allocation, which have recently occupied so much of our time.

We believe that programme budgets for future bienniums should be prepared using a strategic planning approach that will, *inter alia*, define specific programme objectives and outcomes for each major programme; for each objective, identify priority activities to achieve results; allow flexibility in planning and implementation for reallocation of resources to highest priorities; strengthen the principle of accountability at the programme level, through the establishment of qualitative and quantitative performance targets for programmes; institute a planning, monitoring and evaluation process to continually assess effective and efficient use of resources in achieving stated objectives; and make provision for

reporting on results and use of resources to the Fifth Committee through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions throughout the biennium.

Finally, my delegation has a point to make in response to concerns that have been raised about the establishment of a total level of expenditures in this budget. A level of $2.608 billion has indeed been set, and concerns have been expressed that this could constrain mandated programmes and activities. And, since it is lower than the amounts in the expenditures sections of the budget, the real constraint lies not in the established level of expenditures but in the corresponding level of contributions when those expenditures are assessed.

My delegation would note that in 1995 a total amount of $1.135 billion was assessed on Member States in respect of the regular budget. But as of 30 November of this year $392 million, or 35 per cent of the assessment, was still outstanding. No delegation, in the course of our consultations on this budget, ever proposed a 35 per cent cut in agreed expenditures, but a large proportion of Member States, including the major contributor, by unilaterally imposing individual caps on the obligations that they have freely assumed, have achieved just that in the current biennium.

In this connection, my delegation wishes to recall Article 2, paragraph 2, of the Charter:

> "All Members, in order to ensure to all of them the rights and benefits resulting from membership, shall fulfil in good faith the obligations assumed by them in accordance with the present Charter."

Mr. Gomersall (United Kingdom): My delegation is grateful for this opportunity to explain its position on the Working Capital Fund resolution, resolution 50/218, on which my delegation joined a consensus in the interests of concluding agreement on a hard-won budget settlement.

With hindsight, my delegation would have preferred, as others would, to have had more time to debate the important issues of principle, over which we were only able to skate in last night's final proceedings. We are glad that it is now agreed that we should revert to them early in our resumed session. But, given the way that our informal consultations evolved, there are certain clarifications that my Government wishes to make regarding this resolution on the Working Capital Fund.

This resolution does not give the Secretary-General a blank cheque to fund the deficits of major contributors through enforced borrowing from peace-keeping accounts.

If agreement on the budget meant that it would be fully funded, this Organization would be in a better state than it is. Unfortunately, agreeing the budget does not guarantee that the amounts will be honoured by all Member States, and therefore that the regular budget programmes can automatically be completed.

This is the real issue that needs to be addressed now: there can be no assumption that in the coming biennium all troop-contributor Governments will be prepared to fund the deficit in the regular budget through involuntary lending to the Organization as they have in the past.

My delegation consulted widely with other troop-contributor delegations before putting forward some very modest amendments to the draft resolution, draft resolution V, on the Working Capital Fund. These would simply have repeated in the body of the resolution the conditions which apply in the adopted text to the Secretariat's borrowing from peace-keeping accounts, and which are referred to very obscurely in paragraph 6. They would also have created greater transparency by making clear who is responsible for the deficits on the regular budget, and how much the troop-contributor States are owed at the time, if their reimbursements are diverted by the Secretary-General for the purposes of the regular budget. My delegation, with others, will continue to seek these and other improvements at the resumed session of the Fifth Committee.

The support expressed in informal consultations for these draft amendments shows the depth and breadth of concern about the mounting underlying problem. Similarly, the opposition to those proposals showed an increasing awareness of the scale of the cash flow crisis now looming. It also showed that delegations are beginning to recognize that the practice of enforced borrowing in this manner has developed beyond the scope of the provisions incorporated in the resolution we have just adopted.

There may have been in the minds of some delegations a belief that the Working Capital Fund resolution authorizes the Secretary-General in a general way to borrow from peace-keeping accounts if necessary to stave off a crisis. But the conditions are very specific:

the borrowing may be done only as a last resort. The first resort, in my delegation's view, should be to seek payment from those in arrears and from others that pay late in the financial year, before obliging those that have already paid and are in credit with the Organization to pay for a second time. The second condition is that the borrowing should be without prejudice to the programmes for which the peace-keeping funds were contributed. The Secretary-General himself has said many times that the non-reimbursement of United Nations debts to peace-keepers is prejudicial to the willingness of contributors to volunteer their services. Therefore, hitherto neither of these conditions has been fulfilled.

There may also have been a belief that by not objecting strongly to this practice in the past troop contributors have silently approved the reality. Let me therefore repeat what my own Foreign Secretary said in this Hall on 24 September this year, and which represents the formal position of my Government, that borrowing from peace-keeping funds to fund the regular budget is not acceptable.

The accumulation of further arrears by one Member State whose legislature is not willing to commit itself to honouring those debts can only increase the financial risk to the Organization and its creditors.

I hope this is clear. My delegation believes that the responsibility for any cash flow crisis lies with those who do not pay, and not with those who do. My delegation will not assume any obligation to pay their deficit, or any blame for the consequences.

Therefore, we believe that the Secretariat will in practice be obliged in any case, as it should also be in principle, to seek the approval of the General Assembly, including the troop contributors, if it wishes to continue this practice from now on.

Mr. Birenbaum (United States of America): Ambassador Albright had hoped to be here today to present the position of the United States on the adoption of the programme budget, but she was not able to be with us this morning.

The United States views the adoption of the United Nations programme budget for 1996-1997 with mixed feelings. The budget is higher than we would have preferred and recommended. For that reason, we cannot fully support it. At the same time, the budget is below the level of expenditures for United Nations programmes during the current 1994-1995 biennium. It is a true no-growth budget. This is unprecedented, and is a sharp and welcome departure from business as usual.

The negotiations over this budget have been long and difficult. My Government made far-reaching recommendations to eliminate waste, reduce spending for low priorities and improve management practices. Although not all of our recommendations were accepted, we appreciate the constructive and forthright nature of the debate that occurred. We want to express our special gratitude to Mr. Martin Sharp for his fairness and skill in moderating the discussions. I want also to acknowledge the contribution of Mr. Movses Abelian, who played a central role in concluding these negotiations.

As the consensus agreement reflects, the majority of United Nations Members understand the urgency of reforming and revitalizing the Organization. That is important today; it will be even more important in the months and years ahead. The numbers tell the story. During the current biennium, the United Nations will spend approximately $2.63 billion. The Secretariat had proposed a budget for 1996-1997 that would have amounted to $2.828 billion, an increase of $200 million attributable not to programme growth, but to inflation and other mandatory cost increases. The agreement reached today is for a budget of $2.608 billion, a figure below that of the previous two years. While my Government does not endorse this budget level, we are not blocking consensus adoption because of the following considerations and understandings.

First, this agreement acknowledges the need to reduce low-priority spending as a central part of the United Nations budget process. This is, of course, common sense, but it has not until now been common practice. Under this budget, the Secretary-General must report back to the General Assembly a plan for achieving approximately $100 million in savings to stay within the $2.608 billion level; the United Nations cannot spend more than this amount. This is in addition to other reductions contained in the budget. Inevitably, this will require that many inflation and other mandatory cost increases be absorbed, not simply added on. This will be a challenge to managers, but the alternative is chronic and unsupported budget growth. Looking to the future, restraint in budgeting is a habit we must develop, for it will be essential both to the United Nations and to the entire United Nations system.

Secondly, the spending ceiling in this budget must be a true ceiling, not a target. Given the dynamic nature of the world, we can expect the Secretariat to come to the Assembly during the next two years with additional, likely meritorious, spending proposals. My Government will insist that such proposals be accompanied by reprogramming from the accounts in this budget, not by adding to them. We have approved a no-growth budget; we must have the discipline now to live within it.

In that regard, we are pleased that the very first paragraph of the budget resolution reaffirms resolution 41/213. That resolution requires, among many other things, that proposed new spending be accommodated within the contingency fund, absorbed in the programme budget or deferred to the next budget. This provision has not been enforced effectively. It should be, and we expect the reaffirmation will ensure that it is.

Thirdly, the 9 per cent pay increase for Professional United Nations staff that has been proposed by the International Civil Service Commission is not accepted, and funds to implement it are not included in this budget. Instead, the recommendations will be returned to the Commission with instructions that it reconsider those recommendations using a more accurate methodology.

Finally, this budget resolution includes a number of significant reform measures. It includes a comprehensive review to increase the outsourcing of services. It strengthens the Office of Internal Oversight Services. Also, a separate resolution calling for specific plans to reduce paperwork has been adopted. These reforms will make the United Nations work better and cost less.

The United States will work closely with the Secretariat and with Member States to implement the programme reductions made necessary by this budget. We know that many countries are concerned that budget cuts may cause significant harm to important ongoing programme priorities of the United Nations. However, my Government is convinced that the budget levels contained in this agreement can be achieved without harm to those priority goals.

Fortunately, the Secretariat has planned, and is already implementing, management improvements that will yield substantial savings, especially during the second half of the biennium. The budget resolution transforms these improvements from executive policy into legislative requirement.

Although imperfect, this budget marks another in a series of significant steps towards a more effective, efficient and accountable United Nations. It is a major down payment on a reformed United Nations.

During the past year we have felt the positive effects of the new, independent Office of Internal Oversight Services, which has identified for correction a wide range of poor management practices and some cases of outright fraud. We have benefited as well from the introduction of a new personnel appraisal system and a variety of cost-cutting measures proposed by Under-Secretary-General Joseph Connor. And the Secretary-General has established a High-level Working Group on reform to recommend more extensive steps to restructure and improve United Nations operations.

Although this budget is not as lean as my Government originally proposed, it is perhaps the most austere ever adopted by the General Assembly. It should be viewed by the Secretariat, and by the world, as a mandate for change. If the United Nations is to be an effective and relevant force in the twenty-first century, as my Government hopes and believes it will be, the pace of reform must continue to accelerate.

Let us never forget that this world Organization is unique and indispensable. Its credibility and reputation matter. In many areas of law and social policy it establishes the standard by which national actions and efforts are judged. It is both necessary and appropriate, therefore, that we hold the Organization itself to a high standard.

Those who founded the United Nations half a century ago were not motivated by a desire to create the world's best-paid international bureaucracy; they did not, in establishing the Economic and Social Council, envisage a panel with 150 subsidiary bodies; they did not fashion this great forum so that the same tired issues could be debated year after year, filling libraries with reports too heavy to lift and too dull to read.

The goal of the founders was to build a platform of principle and law upon which all the peoples of the world might stand. They wanted an Organization dedicated to maintaining peace, promoting human dignity and enriching and saving lives.

We are the inheritors of that legacy. To honour it, we must insist not merely on competence in the administration and operation of United Nations

programmes, but on excellence. We must demand value. And we must provide focus, for a United Nations that tries to do everything will do nothing very well.

The difficulty of this year's budget negotiation is not surprising. And the outcome is not a climax, but a prelude to future debates and discussions. My Government is committed to the success and revitalization of the United Nations, and is convinced that this will be possible only through a programme of comprehensive, far-reaching and sustained reform. That is a goal towards which all nations must work and from which all nations will benefit.

Mr. Rowe (Australia): My delegation welcomes the adoption of the programme budget for the biennium 1996 to 1997 without a vote. As the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee said in introducing the reports of the Fifth Committee, the Australian delegation, through Mr. Martin Sharp, was closely involved in the negotiations as coordinator. On behalf of Mr. Sharp, I wish to express our appreciation for the kind words that have been addressed to him. I also wish to thank the Chairman of the Fifth Committee, all delegations and the Secretariat for the cooperation they gave to the coordinator. In particular, I wish to thank Mr. Movses Abelian of Armenia for so skilfully bringing the coordination process to a successful conclusion.

While this budget represents an important contribution to a more effective and efficient United Nations, we share the view that further improvements are necessary in the budget process and that a strategic planning approach, which Canada has suggested, is something we should consider seriously.

Australia was pleased to join in the consensus on the resolution on the Working Capital Fund. At the same time, I wish to register our support for the proposals put forward by the United Kingdom delegation in relation to that resolution, which we consider should be taken up again at the resumed session next year.

The President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 116 and of all the reports of the Fifth Committee.

Programme of work

The President: Apart from organizational matters and items that may have to be considered by operation of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, and bearing in mind the action already taken by the Assembly at its 46th, 68th, 76th, 78th, 82nd, 89th, 93rd, 95th, 96th, 98th, 99th and 100th plenary meetings concerning agenda items 12, 16 (b), 20 (b), 38, 42, 112 (b), 114 to 116, 120 to 123, 125 to 126, 128, 131 to 138, 159 and 160, I should like to propose that the following agenda items remain for consideration during the fiftieth session of the General Assembly:

Item 10	Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization
Item 12	Report of the Economic and Social Council
Item 15 (c)	Election of a member of the International Court of Justice
Item 16 (b)	Election of twelve members of the World Food Council
Item 20 (b)	Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions
Item 23	Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields
Item 28	The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Item 35	Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte
Item 38	The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti
Item 42	Question of Palestine
Item 47	Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters
Item 55	Question of Cyprus
Item 112 (b)	Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms
Item 114	*Review of the efficiency of the* administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Item 115 Programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

Item 116 Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997

Item 117 Improving the financial situation of the United Nations

Item 118 Joint Inspection Unit

Item 120 Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Item 121 United Nations common system

Item 122 Financing of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in the Middle East

Item 123 Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission

Item 124 Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991)

Item 125 Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

Item 126 Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador

Item 127 Financing and liquidation of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia

Item 128 Financing of the United Nations Protection Force, the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia, the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force and the United Nations Peace Forces headquarters

Item 129 Financing of the United Nations Operation in Somalia II

Item 130 Financing of the liquidation of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique

Item 131 Financing of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus

Item 132 Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia

Item 133 Financing of the United Nations Mission in Haiti

Item 134 Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia

Item 135 Financing of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda

Item 136 Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

Item 137 Financing of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan

Item 138 Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations

Item 149 Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

Item 151 Report of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994

Item 159 Human resources management

Item 160 Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994

Item 163 Strengthening of the United Nations system

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly that those agenda items should remain for consideration during the fiftieth session of the Assembly?

It was so decided.

Statement by the President

The President: Before adjourning the meeting, I would like to take the opportunity to say a few words.

During the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, a historic anniversary of the United Nations, we pursued, as in previous sessions, important work in plenary meetings and in the Main Committees. We also held a Special Commemorative Meeting that brought to this Hall the Heads of State, Heads of Government and other distinguished representatives of all Member States to celebrate this Organization's achievements, to identify its weaknesses and to point to the future with confidence.

Earlier, His Holiness Pope John Paul II had come to New York specifically to address this assembly of nations. The urgency of his message and the confidence he displayed in the United Nations should be remembered by all of us.

It has indeed been a full and exhausting session. But our work is not yet complete. This year of celebration must also be a year of strengthening. This Organization and indeed the United Nations system as a whole can only benefit from the continued momentum in favour of reform which has taken hold at the United Nations. Five working groups of this Assembly, four of which are chaired by the President of the General Assembly, have been debating or will discuss important and urgent matters related to the reform of the United Nations.

As members are all aware, organizational aspects of the working groups have been dealt with over the last few weeks and the ground is now prepared for progress in an efficient and coordinated manner. Their substantive work will begin in January, and I am very much looking forward to the opportunity to be able to contribute to such an important task. I am hopeful that the spirit of the fiftieth anniversary — that of good will, confidence and faith in the future of the United Nations — will prevail and that the opportunity for change will not be lost.

In the meantime, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the cooperation and support demonstrated by all in the work of this Assembly. In particular, I must recognize the sterling and invaluable efforts and dedication of the staff of the General Assembly secretariat and of the Conference Services and other support staff which made our meetings possible. To all and to the Secretary-General, who is here with us today, I wish a happy holiday and a new year full of promise.

The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.